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Spies Are on Their Own

A spy is a spy whether considered singly or in a group of 83.

That, apparently is the feeling of Allen Dulles, former head of the Central Intelligence Agency, when he says the United States should take no military measures to free the crewmen of the USS Pueblo.

"I don't think that the agent who is sent in expects any military power to follow him up if he gets into difficulty," Dulles said.

The USS Pueblo was captured by North Koreans off the Korean coast Jan. 23.

Asked if this meant the crewmen now would be sacrificed to whatever fate might

face them, Dulles replied, "I'm afraid that is inherent in the business."

We are happy to note this does not mean the United States must remain mute and helpless. U.S. officials have the duty and responsibility to exert every pressure and explore every avenue possible to obtain the safe return of the crewmen. This, they are doing now.

Adding hope to the picture are past experiences. After lengthy delays, Capts. Freeman Olmsted and John McKone of Forbes Air Force Base, and Gary Francis Powers were returned from Russia after being interned.

The Defense Dept. has admitted all were on spying missions to which Dulles referred. We must wait and hope.